FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT U.S. FOREST SERVICE DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST, PIEDMONT

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AND HITCHITI
EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

STATE: GEORGIA

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 299,236

DATE: OCTOBER 31, 1978 AND NOVEMBER 3, 1978

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

AIRCRAFT: CESSNA 182 AND 172

CREW: W.A. CAROTHERS, R.F. BASSETT, B.I. HAMMOND

REPORT PREPARED BY: W.A. CAROTHERS

SURVEY OBJECTIVE: TO PROVIDE AN INTENSIVE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY TO THE INITIAL SURVEY CONDUCTED ON 10/3/78. THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF 10/3/78 INDICATED THAT SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE POPULATIONS HAVE INCREASED WITHIN THE SURVEY AREAS. THUS, THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY WAS DESIGNED TO LOCATE SPOTS OF RED AND DYING PINES WHICH WERE NOT OBSERVED ON THE INITIAL SURVEY.

SURVEY RESULTS

THIRTY SPOTS OF RED AND DYING PINES WERE OBSERVED. THEY RANGED IN SIZE FROM A SINGLE TREE TO FIFTY TREES PER SPOT (REFER TO MAPS).

CONCLUSION

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ACTIVITY IS INCREASING WITHIN THE AREAS COVERED BY THE SURVEYS. GROUND CHECKS OF SPOTS OBSERVED DURING THE SURVEY OF 10/3/78 HAVE CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF ACTIVE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE POPULATIONS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. ANOTHER 100% AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED AS SOON AS LEAF FALL HAS OCCURRED.*
- 2. GROUND CHECKS OF OBSERVED SPOTS WILL BE MADE BY FIDM PERSONNEL TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSAL AGENT(S).
- 3. AN EVALUATION OF THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE PROBLEM ON THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST, PIEDMONT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AND THE HITCHITI EXPERIMENTAL FOREST WILL BE CONDUCTED BY FIDM PERSONNEL IN 1979.

4. FIELD SURVEILLANCE BY NATIONAL FOREST PERSONNEL SHOULD CONTINUE.

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT USFS-SOUTHEASTERN AREA

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*THE SURVEYS OF 10/3/78, 10/31/78 AND 11/3/78 WERE HAMPERED BY EXTENSIVE FALL COLOR.



